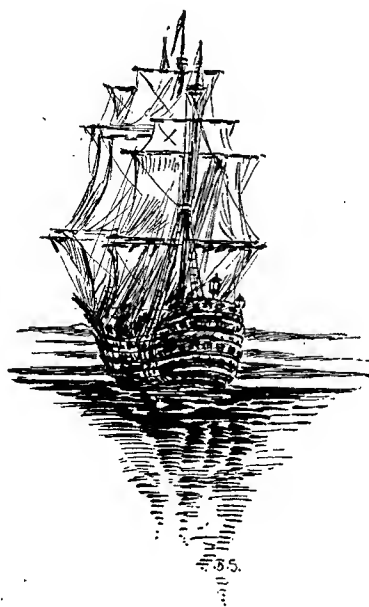


A CIRCUM DRAMA

By Circum Brig. General Julius Klein



Reprinted from THE LOG OF THE CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB
Spring-Summer, 1953

A CIRCUM DRAMA

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur Feted at Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner

Circums Will Never Forget This Historic Evening
A REPORT OUR MEMBERS 50 YEARS HENCE
WILL STILL APPRECIATE

By Circum Brig. General Julius Klein

"As an American I resent the fact that a great man like General Douglas MacArthur is now selling electric razors and carbon paper for Remington Rand instead of leading the battle in Korea or participating in the councils of the men guiding our Nation's destiny during the most crucial crisis of our existence as a free nation."

A cold chill went down my spine as Circum George Sokolsky, the famous columnist, thundered these memorable words to a group of seasoned and toughened globetrotters.

It was the occasion of the eagerly awaited Fiftieth An-

nual Dinner of The Circumnavigators Club that will live in the cherished memory of all those present until the last Circum has navigated his last mile.

It was just Circum General Douglas MacArthur who entered the private dining-room of the Stork Club in New York on April 23rd, 1953. With him were his loyal aides, General Courtney Whitney and Colonel Sidney Huff. The General attended as the Honorary President of the Circumnavigators.

To few other men has this distinction ever been accorded—over the past fifty years only to ex-President William Howard Taft

(No. 10), one of our Nation's most popular presidents who used his famous smile to conquer his adversaries; to Herbert Hoover, the greatest living ex-president who circled the Globe more than fifty years ago; to Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole; to Burton Holmes, the early exponent of travelogue and adventure; and to Lowell Thomas, the celebrated commentator and news analyst.

A Roster of Honor

The Club's old roster includes many famous names. There is Francis H. Love, one of our oldest living Circums, a rugged and real fellow. I had seen him last thirty

GENERAL CARLOS ROMULO SPEAKS EARNESTLY

Rapt attention greeted the Ambassador of The Philippines to the United States and the United Nations.



years ago in Constantinople and now he was sitting next to me at the dinner. He is the proud holder of *Circum Certificate* No. 7. Certificate No. 8 was held by William Jennings Bryan, who donated the gavel which is a cherished possession and is still wielded at the functions of our Club. Richard Harding Davis, No. 9, another notable *Circum*, was one of the greatest war correspondents of all time; he reported on every war from the Greco-Turkish War in 1897 through to World War I. These are the type of men who formed the cadre of The *Circumnavigators Club*. The list is endless and the present members are worthy successors to that tradition.

Unfortunately, the surviving member of the trio who founded The *Circumnavigators Club* back in 1902, *Circum Immortal* J. D. Morrison, was unable to attend the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner. He holds Certificate No. 1, and a fitting and well deserved tribute was accorded him on this occasion.

These are the men who represent true Americanism for the *Circumnavigators* know no creed, no color, race or religion—to them all are human beings. And I remember that proud day several years ago when we gathered on Hitler's yacht, *Grille* in New York Harbor.

A Robe of Humility

A great man will always be recognized whether in the uniform of a General, in a tuxedo or in rags. MacArthur's personality reached out across the hall. His kindness, his dignity and his humility clothed him at all times. There was a hushed silence and an expectancy in the air as this grand soldier-statesman took his seat of honor among those who love and admire

Formerly with Hearst papers in Chicago, entered active duty before Pearl Harbor with the 33rd Infantry Division and served in the Pacific as Commanding Officer of nearly 10,000 troops under MacArthur. Recipient of Legion of Merit, with clusters; Soldier's Medal for Heroism, Bronze Star, French Legion of Honor, Philippines Distinguished Service Star. Served as Consultant on National Defense to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

him.

My thoughts flashed back to that fateful day in April, 1951, when I waited with thousands of other American citizens for MacArthur to arrive in San Francisco. There was that same dynamic tension as the "old soldier" stepped from his plane. It was felt as strongly by those thousands in San Francisco as by the rest of the Nation from coast-to-coast, as well as by the peoples all over the World. It was felt in the cities where MacArthur stopped as by those who were now gathered in the confines of the Stork Club private dining room.

The dramatic events of the evening proved how ill equipped I am, as an old reporter, to record the scene at which *Circumnavigators* from many corners of the Globe had gathered to pay tribute to the man whom history will record as one of the greatest Americans of all times—General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. It is a scene which cannot be recaptured adequately, either in the written or spoken word.

Here was a group of men who, for fifty years, had been traveling around, who were cognizant of the signal honor that a man of MacArthur's magnitude should leave his "ivory tower" in The Waldorf-Astoria to join them. Here was an interesting mixture of old-timers and new-timers—the old-timers who required weeks and months to get around the world and the new-timers who make their round-the-world trips in days.

The Solution—Understanding

Here was a conglomeration of men from all walks of life, united in the common knowledge that, with the development of modern transportation, the World is getting smaller and smaller. Their quest for adventure is the answer to an ultimate solution in the search of mankind for international understanding and good will among the peoples of the Globe.

No more fitting tribute can be paid to The *Circumnavigators Club* than the simple words printed in the program of their Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner:

Golden Anniversary 1902 - 1953

As one of the Three Immortals:



Brig. Gen. Julius Klein

Circums James H. Birch, Jr., J. D. Morrison and E. H. Patterson—Founder *Circum Morrison* sets forth in the Member's Book of the *Circumnavigators Club*:

"All in the golden afternoon full leisurely we glide . . . quoting 'Alice in Wonderland', in a shady nook on the deck of the old S. S. *Barbarossa* as this ship slid over the quiet and glassy seas of the Indian Ocean in March, 1902 . . . starts the saga of The *Circumnavigators Club*."

The ideal of the perpetrators of The *Circumnavigators Club* is a gathering of Big Hearts, like to-night. And the Book states, "If the big hearts beat below fine heads it shall not be held against the heads—so long as they forget it. But it is a law of compensation that whenever the head grows abnormally, the heart shrinks. To be eligible a man must have made a circuit of the Globe, longitudinally, and be vouched for by three members."

No Bubblewater

Then, our neat little Membership Book sets forth—there not being a Sherman Billingsley nor Stork Club in those days of long ago!—(quote): "The Dinners will not be expensive. There will be none of the bubble water that used to be the popular breakfast beverage at Johannesburg. But those who will permit the life in a highball to evaporate or a dry martini to hike back on the tray, should not be



"THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER!"

And one who came not knowing he was to report it!! Circum Eddie Eagan, Circumguest Vice Admiral Calvin T. Durgin, U.S.N. (Ret.), Circumdistinguished Guest of Honor, and Circum Brig. Gen. Julius Klein.

persuaded into petitioning for membership."

These men rose in unison to sing the Circumnavigator's song. The hall echoed from the husky and rough voices of men who have hunted tiger in the jungles, who have dug ore in Africa and Venezuela, men who served as intelligence officers in China, who penetrated into Tibet, soldiers who fought the enemy in the Battle of the Bulge, on the beaches of the Pacific, naval officers who have sailed all the oceans of the World, industrial captains who have brought the wares of American industry to every port of the Globe, physicians who have discovered cures and developed serums for natives in disease-infected Africa or India—gentlemen of the World—they all joined when the popular musical conductor, Edwin MacArthur, and baritone, Myron Sands led in the Circumnavigators' traditional anthem:

*We're the Circumnavigators; Men
who know their way around
We have box'd the whole Earth's
compass And are back here safe
and sound.
We're the Circumnavigators, Hale
and Hearty, full of rum,
You can join this Magic Circle,*

*When you do as we have done.
Raise your glass to bold Magellan,
He was first, to call the turn.
The great Father of our Order, We
enbalm in Mem'ry's urn.
We care not for wealth or station,
Nor for rank, nor birth, or state,
But if you would join our circle,
You must circumnavigate.
Here's health to all good fellows,
Be their gods, just what they
please,
Buddha, Jupiter or Wotan, Turk,
Parsee or Chinese.
So they pass our Board of Censors,
And that they be true and
straight,
They can be, like us, Immortals,
If they Circumnavigate.*

Circum-President Arthur M. Tode was an inspiring presiding officer and Circum-Colonel Edward P. F. Eagan a sparkling Master of Ceremonies. As the melody of the Circumnavigator's song faded out, a melody that was echoed all over the Globe, His Excellency, General Carlos P. Romulo was introduced. The Ambassador of The Philippines to the United States of America captivated the audience with his brilliant, sincere and most timely remarks.

The diplomat from The Philippines is short in figure but tall as

a statesman. He had been nominated by the United States as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Romulo described it as a two-fold honor to enjoy the confidence and respect of the United States and to have his appointment vetoed by the Soviet Union.

It did not take long before the little general with the big voice got to his favorite subject: His own homeland, The Philippines and the love of her people for General MacArthur.

We Revere Him

"There is no country in the World," Romulo said, "which loves General MacArthur more than The Philippines. MacArthur can only be truly judged fifty or a hundred years hence. Our children's children, our children's children's children, will read in the history books about this man, who in the darkest hour of America stood in Asia and taught Asia to respect the West again at a time when the West was at its lowest ebb. One man, one American, who, almost barehanded, stopped the aggressor and rescued the Far East from total conquest by the enemies of a free democratic world, and thus recreated prestige for the West. We, in The Philippines, like every freedom-loving man in the Far East, revere and idolize him."

MacArthur, who had walked into the Stork Club erect, with his soldierly bearing, sat humbly as The Philippines statesman sang his praises, but it was obvious that he was moved deeply when Romulo spoke of those days of his Country's independence which ended with the fall of Corregidor.

In the minds of some Americans, especially certain political partisans, General MacArthur may be a controversial figure, but not in the eyes of Romulo and his countrymen nor in the eyes of millions of people in the Far East who dare dream of liberty and freedom and democracy.

An Historic Fourth of July

Romulo spoke of the day when freedom came to his country. "It was our own Fourth of July," he said, "the Fourth of July, 1946. The entire nation was thrilled and MacArthur's name was on everyone's lips. We thanked the Lord

Almighty," he said, "that America had sent us General MacArthur."

A master at painting with words, Romulo described the scene in Manila on that memorable Fourth of July seven years ago. Two hundred and fifty thousand people had flocked to the principal park in that city to witness the memorable scene when the first President of the Philippine Islands took over the administration of his country from the United States. The people greeted their new president with noisy cheer and enthusiasm, but dim it was, indeed, compared to the roar of applause and thunder that went up when the representative of the United States rose to speak, for it was the man whom they adored and revered, the man whose greatness they recognized. It was the man who made good his promise, when he said "*I shall return!*"—*Douglas MacArthur.*

Romulo, the soldier, the statesman and writer, was one of MacArthur's boys in the Philippines. He went through the trials and tribulations of retreat and defeat and he was there at the historic moment when MacArthur returned to Manila and announced to the World: "On to Tokyo."

And, Romulo continued: "Gentlemen, I am honored and privileged and humble to have the opportunity of paying tribute to Douglas MacArthur." He raised his glass: "A toast to Douglas MacArthur, the defender of freedom and democracy in the World."

A wave of emotion swept through the room and everyone responded humbly and gratefully to this toast offered in honor of the most distinguished member of The Circumnavigators Club.

Guest of Honor

And then there was an unexpected speaker—"the man who came to dinner"—our Honorary President and guest-of-honor, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. He had come to join a group of old friends who understood his greatness and who believed in his principles. He had come for they had asked him to accept from them a token of their love and admiration. Few are the occasions when MacArthur agrees to speak, for he has been misquoted too many times.

But here, deeply moved by the stirring address of Romulo, his old comrade-in-arms, which brought back to him the memory of Leyte, Bataan and Corregidor, and touched by the electrifying challenge of the speaker he pushed his chair aside and approached the microphone. Never in the long life of The Circumnavigators Club was there a time so full of emotion, drama and attention as at this moment when General MacArthur got up to greet his fellow members at this most historical anniversary dinner.

Silence came over the audience. He spoke from his heart, quietly and simply. There was humility in his voice and yet there was forthrightness. He spoke as only MacArthur can speak. There was drama in hearing America's greatest soldier speak to a group of seasoned and salty globetrotters—still fighting the bloody battle of Old Baldy in Korea, with the shadow of memories of the Argonne, St. Mihiel, Flanders, New Guinea, Bataan, Corregidor, Manila and other holy and some unholy places where MacArthur led, fought and won for America.

The name "MacArthur" always meant victory for America—*never* defeat. The first MacArthur—a famous General in the Civil War—

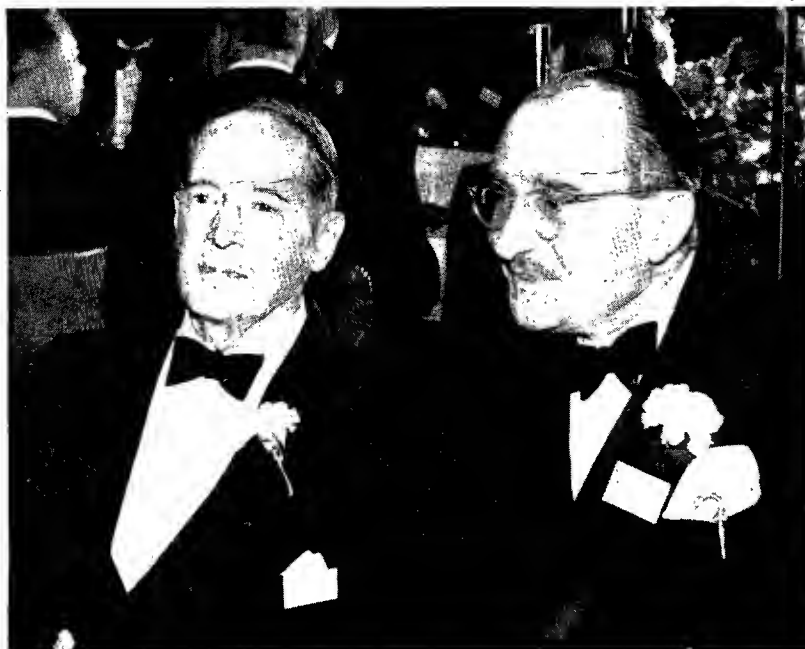
with Douglas MacArthur carrying on during World Wars I and II—until Korea—where the enemy could *not* stop him—but Washington *did*.

The Eternal Man

The General, who can't fade away because he is part of living history, began by referring to General Romulo's remarks that school children would read about him in their history books fifty years hence. He said: "While I appreciate the tribute paid to me by my old friend, General Romulo, I want you to know that I expect to be here fifty years from now and read those history books myself."

"I am grateful for your tributes, but don't take them at face value. I know the hearts of old friends overflow with emotion; it comes from the heart and my gratitude to you and to him (Romulo) comes from my heart, also, and not from human vanity. I am proud to be with my fellow members of The Circumnavigators Club. You are men who do not believe in a status quo, who do not believe in a lost horizon, or no horizon. You are not limited by rules that would hinder the progress of civilization all over the World. You who are the descendants of those brave men of adven-

HONORARY AND WORKING PRESIDENTS
Circum General Douglas MacArthur and Circum Arthur M. Tode.



ture of a thousand years ago, five hundred years ago, a hundred or fifty years ago, who were pioneers to make this Globe a better World. You have seen the World and you know what it means to live in an era where part of the World is enslaved by aggressors."

A Kipling Devotee

MacArthur recalled the contribution of the old American globetrotters of great adventure and reminisced of his early youth in the Far East, especially Mandalay. Always fascinated by the poems of Kipling, he recited some of his dramatic verses. In his own eloquent way he referred to them and read his own interpretation into the lines of this great poet, the man who became a saint to all globetrotters, brave men and soldiers of fortune of all nationalities from all over the World.

The audience quickly realized that here was not only a great sol-

dier, a great statesman, a great speaker, but also a man possessing warm human qualities.

"Your forefathers saw the magnitude of the World's circle and ever since then there have been people like you, citizens of the World, who wanted to find out how others live, and through their searching they have become wiser and so have you. Your curiosity about other people, your refusal to let others do the thinking for you, that is a far greater contribution to America than many realize.

"As men who have been around in the World you recognize the threat to our civilization because a large part of our planet lives in chains and fear. You understand the meaning of Asia's awakening. You are aware more than half of the World's population lives in the Far East, and more than half of the World's untapped wealth lies in the Pacific."

The General did not relate his

own person to these facts. Yet his statement served to drive home dramatically the importance of the role he played in recent years in the area to which we will be paying closer attention as time goes on.

Perhaps, while the audience listened, MacArthur was thinking of a young officer who served under him by the name of Ike. From my conversations with the General I know that his heart goes out to that former young officer who is now in The White House carrying the heaviest burden in all the World. He feels sincere allegiance for his old comrade-in-arms—the new President, his Commander-in-Chief, and I know that he prays for his success.

There was no bitterness in the old warrior, but as much self-assurance as ever. Only two years have passed since MacArthur appeared before the Senate Committee which investigated his dismissal by President Truman. In these short two years he has been completely vindicated. "There is no substitute for victory," he said then, and his formula still stands—victory means to hit the enemy hard with everything we have in his weakest spot—and finish the war with the least casualties in life and limb. This has always been MacArthur's credo.

The General spoke off the cuff. He gave one of his famous extemporaneous addresses which shake the audience and make history. He was serious at times, then humorous. Throughout his remarks there was evident a great human touch.

An illuminated Globe was presented to Circum Honorary President Douglas MacArthur on behalf of all members,—a bright light inside the Globe gave it added color. It symbolized what we all thought: "As long as the spirit of MacArthur lives—there can and will be hope and light in every dark corner of the Globe. This is what MacArthur fought and fights for."

He presented membership certificates to newly elected Circumnavigators, and these men were not ashamed of the tears that welled up in their eyes. They shone with pride—pride not only because they had become members

SMILING DUO

Circum "M.C." Eddie Eagan brings forth one from General Carlos Romulo.



of one of the World's most unique clubs, but pride because they had been knighted to membership by the greatest Circumnavigator of our time. The happiness glowing in the faces of the recipients was reflected in the smile of the one bestowing the honor—as I so often observed when MacArthur decorated his men after battle.

Other Great Circums

Genial Circum James A. Farley, former Postmaster General and currently Chairman of the Board of Coca Cola Export Company, paid strong tribute to General MacArthur and described him as the greatest soldier and statesman since George Washington, a sentiment widely acclaimed by the audience.

Farley pleaded for unity. "As a Democrat," he said, "I hope the members of my party will assist President Eisenhower by supporting him wholeheartedly in the grave task of solving our own Country's present chaotic condition and the supreme need for restoring peace. Ike needs the support of the entire Nation, regardless of party. We should give all assistance possible to the present administration, for, whatever the Russians are up to, it's no good for us. If we keep our powder dry, we will be able to meet any blow that may come from that quarter."

George Sokolsky said later that Circum Jim's address was the best Republican speech since MacArthur's keynote address at last year's Republican Convention. Jokingly, he suggested that Eisenhower invite Farley to become National Chairman of the GOP—"where," he said, "Farley belongs."

Circum George E. Sokolsky, the celebrated author and news analyst, was the forceful, concluding speaker of a memorable evening. I have seen him in many situations. George, always eloquent and incisive, outdid himself that night, for the subject was close to his heart. He is one of MacArthur's faithful and most outspoken disciples, and as one of our foremost experts on the Far East and an old China hand, he talked about Korea and the crisis in the Far East.

"It is hard for me to describe the true man MacArthur," Sokol-



CIGAR DUO

Circumpresident Arthur M. Tode and Circum George Sokolsky put in "puffs."

sky declaimed, "you all know him—you love him—hundreds of millions all over the Globe love him. When a man reaches the station in life, in history, which MacArthur has reached, history speaks for itself. As a contemporary, words just fail me.

"When MacArthur was kicked out, our prestige in Asia reached the lowest point. MacArthur's removal allowed the Russians to turn their covetous eyes toward Formosa, The Philippines, towards Japan, India and Indo-China. All of these are in danger now because we gave up victory which would have been ours had MacArthur been allowed to carry out his battle plans."

The eyes of the audience turned to and fastened upon the man about whom George Sokolsky was speaking when he hurled his note of defiance in regard to MacArthur's present civilian occupation. Our hearts ached but General MacArthur laughed heartily as only a man with a great soul can do, and so we, like he, caught on to the double meaning and wisdom of George's humorous and kindly crack.

General of the Ages

But the audience did not share the General's forgiveness of the national humiliation and the unjustifiable treatment which the Wash-

ington master plotters of intrigue and double-dealing accorded the "General of all Ages" as the late Secretary of War Patterson once called MacArthur, when he discussed him with me.

Those words of Sokolsky brought back to the audience the full impact of recent developments in Korea. They recalled the testimony by members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff two years ago when it was said that MacArthur's battle plan for victory would have involved this country "in the *wrong* war—at the *wrong* time and with the *wrong* enemy."

They remembered that two years later—only a few weeks ago—another great General just returned from the battlefield, General Van Fleet, stated that "Korea is the *right* war in the *right* place at the *right* time and with the *right* Allies." How vividly do we remember MacArthur's forthright testimony before the Congress of the United States after he had returned to his beloved Country at the behest of his Commander-in-Chief! How short-sighted were those men who could not or would not recognize the reputation which MacArthur, and he alone, had built up for America in the Far East during a lifetime of labor and love! That the brilliant statement he made at that time is still being studied by the men who

shape and guide our policy now is tacit testimony to his superior knowledge, his unequalled judgment, and unexcelled strategy.

Sokolsky stated that in 1945 Lieut.-General Robert L. Eichelberger told him that MacArthur's real claim to greatness in history lies in the strength of his conviction, of the soundness of his daring conception and in his unparalleled moral courage. And, Lieutenant General Robert C. Richardson said that he was the only man who could be followed with confidence wherever he goes.

There unfolded before the eyes of the Circums a clear picture of

stomach for victory."

A Victory for Stalin

None but a man as great and humble as he could have remained silent throughout the years. When he did speak, it was the old masterful language, concise and convincing, laying wide open the fallacious policy of the old Pentagon brass, controlled by or yielding to the former Secretary of State who chose to ignore MacArthur's brilliantly-conceived plan. And on the faces of the Circumnavigators present I detected bewilderment — bewilderment at the thought that a genius of his stat-

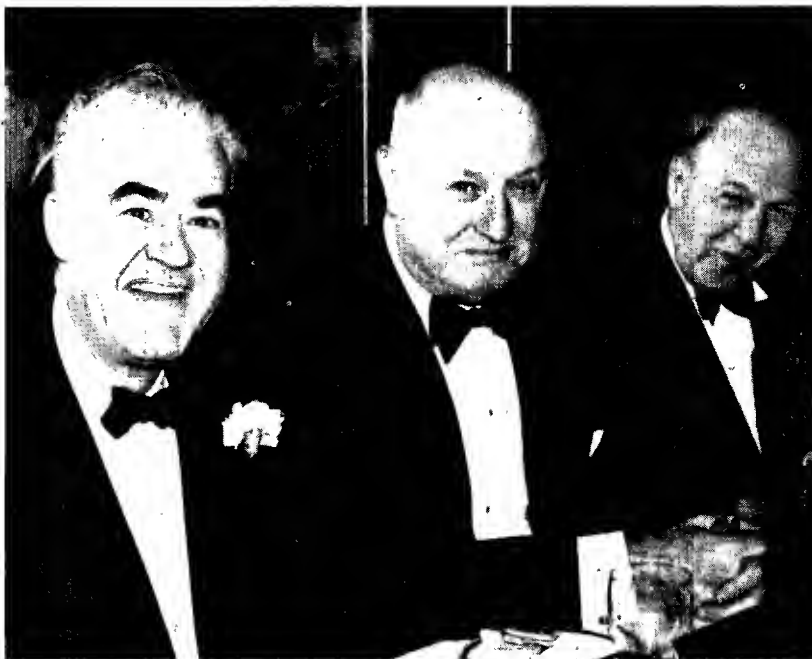
mate consequences, not only for the United States, but the entire World, cannot be estimated, and we shall have to pay for it for a century.

A Night for Remembrance and a Day for Posterity

Though many a serious word was uttered that night, the atmosphere was a joyous one for the Circumnavigators had gathered to pay tribute to Circum General MacArthur, whom they had elected their honorary president. Here were men of stature — selected globetrotters who had traveled to New York by train, by boat, by plane, from all parts of the United States—and, also, from across the seas. None wanted to miss being in the presence of MacArthur's great magnetic personality. They were there in black tie for this special occasion, men who had seen the World and understood what made it tick.

Name a spot anywhere on the Globe and some member of The Circumnavigators Club can tell you all about it, the culture of its people, the climate, the terrain, the commerce and its history. They are not graduates of Cook's tours, but builders of bridges between nations and good will ambassadors who have become citizens of the World in the finest sense of that term.

These men—businessmen, scientists, old soldiers, sailors, airmen, industrialists, men of stature, of wealth and fame—left the Stork Club that evening knowing that they had witnessed an historic event. A great man had come out of his hiding place to be with his friends. Before them there unfolded his magnetic personality with all its warm human qualities and his searching brilliant mind. As time goes by, as these Circums grow old, as they become grandfathers and reach a ripe old age, they will remember this day. Fondly they will look at the framed Circumnavigators Certificate hanging on the wall and proudly tell their grandchildren of their circumnavigations and their attendance at the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner given in honor of the greatest American of their generation—Circum General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.



CIRCUMS THREE GREATLY AMUSED

Circumsecretary Raymond M. Dinsmore, Circum James A. Farley and Circum Colonel Sidney L. Huff enjoy one of General MacArthur's quips.

America's tragedy in Korea. Sokolsky spoke of the landing at Inchon in the fall of 1950 and our minds went back to that time when we all thought that the shooting in Korea was practically over. That was the golden moment when a military victory could have been turned into a political or diplomatic victory, but the opportunity was missed by the powers that stopped MacArthur. Our boys were willing to fight and die in Korea if final peace could be achieved, but our diplomats at home, he said, "had no will or

ure, of whom there have been so few in history, who could have blazed the path to victory and peace, had been forsaken by some of his own countrymen. It was Joe Stalin's greatest victory over the democracies of the World.

Subsequent events, Sokolsky declared, have vindicated the policy of MacArthur, who stated before the Congress of the United States in 1951: "There is no substitute for victory." Events have shown that the ouster of MacArthur was the greatest defeat of the United States since Pearl Harbor. Its ulti-